



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

81 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1242 - (860) 571-7446 - Fax (860) 571-7452 - Email admin@cabe.org

**Testimony
submitted to the
Government Administration and Elections Committee
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HB 6748 AN ACT CONCERNING NON PARTISAN MEMBERSHIP ON BOARDS OF EDUCATION

CABE supports HB 6748, An Act Concerning Non Partisan Membership on Boards of Education. This bill provides the opportunity to remove partisan politics from the selection of board of education members.

The focus of members of the boards of education must be on improving educational quality for all children. The current process of nominating candidates by the local political party's town committees may discourage good candidates who are interested in serving on the boards of education, but are unwilling to participate in town political parties. In addition, partisan based boards of education may make decisions along party lines that foster the agenda of the political party. Nonpartisan board of education elections allow candidates to run on their own merits, experience and platforms without allegiance to a political party. Any individual would be able to run for the board of education by submitting a petition to be on the ballot.

The other New England states all conduct nonpartisan board of education elections, as do 85% of all boards of education in the country.

CABE urges you to support HB 6748.